



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: October 31, 2005
Week Ending: October 30, 2005
CWP WA-CW4405

Rain Continued Apple Crop Smaller Than Earlier Estimates

Field Crops

Continued rains were experienced throughout the state, improving crops, rangeland, and moisture conditions. However, Douglas and Chelan Counties reported spotty winter wheat in some areas due to low moisture at seeding. Corn harvest for grain continued while corn harvest for silage ended. Potato digging wound down. Christmas tree growers were busy preparing harvest roads and servicing equipment for tree harvest.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 4% very poor, 20% poor, 24% fair, 49% good, and 3% excellent. Growers were struggling to cure the forth cutting hay. Calves were being weaned in preparation for market.

Fruits and Vegetables

Apple harvest wound down with crop sizes smaller than the earlier estimates reported. Commercial dahlia growers continued digging and dividing tubers.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	4.8
Last Week	5.5

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	7	19	66	8
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	11	41	46	2
Subsoil	19	33	40	8
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	12	49	39	0
Irrigation Water	6	7	86	1
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	1	3	96	0
Hay & Roughage	4	9	82	5

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2004	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Planted	97	95	99	99
Winter Wheat Emerged	72	68	91	92
Potatoes Harvested	92	90	99	97
Corn Silage Harvested	100	97	99	100
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	100	99	100	100

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	2	42	48	6
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	14	59	27
Corn	0	0	12	56	32

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor: Unseasonably wet weather slowed most agricultural activity. In fact, the entire month of October was wetter than usual which resulted in the postponement of some fall seeding until next Spring. Christmas tree growers were busy preparing harvest roads and servicing equipment for tree harvest. Livestock producers were pleased that the copious rain showers and unseasonably warm temperatures have resulted in rapid forage growth. Commercial dahlia growers continued digging and dividing tubers. Home gardeners continued raking leaves.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Fall rains held off long enough to complete the corn harvest. Dryland corn did poorly. Irrigated corn yields were average to excellent, depending mostly on whether or not soil conditions during planting were dry enough to allow for timely planting. Late September frost hurt some sweet corn yields. As the harvest of annual crops came to an end, the yearly Christmas tree harvest was about to begin.

Mason: The area experienced drizzly, wet weather accumulating 1 and ¹/₄ inches of rain. The leaves were finally starting to fall. Temperatures were mild with no frosts. Cattle were still feeding out on pasture and had not been confined to sacrifice areas yet.

Pierce/South King: Crop conditions still remained good for the area and time of year. Corn was being harvested and looked good. Other fall crops were doing ok as well. No unusual situations to report. No crop damage reported due to a weather event.

Thurston: Another week of rain showers completely replenished depleted soil moisture. Turfgrass growers were frustrated over standing water in fields which makes harvest difficult. U-Pick pumpkin farms expressed disappointment over the lack of sunny, dry days which would be conducive for sales. Christmas tree growers continued preparing equipment for harvest and taking tree inventories. Livestock producers continued to be elated with rapidly growing forage in pastures due to adequate soil moisture and above average temperatures.

Skagit/San Juan/Island: The weather was normal for this time of year; wet, windy and some frost. No losses were reported due to the weather.

Central

Chelan/Douglas: Apple harvest was winding down. Crop was smaller than early estimates. Winter wheat was spotty in some areas due to low moisture at seeding. Livestock producers were preparing for the sale of their calves. Fall pastures were in good condition.

Grant: Growers struggled to cure fourth cutting hay. Some hay was abandoned. About 70 percent of fourth cutting was completed.

Kittitas: Cool, moist weather was good for new seedings, but the week concluded with a relatively hard frost that marked the end of growth for most plants. Cattle producers were preparing to ship calves.

Eastern

Adams: Winter wheat seeding was behind schedule. Potato harvest wrapped up, as did most apple picking.

Asotin/Garfield: A few showers went through the area . Winter wheat emergence was far below normal for this time of year. More moisture was needed for crops, rangeland and water supplies. The area was still under severe drought conditions.

Ferry/Okanogan: Orchardist's were finishing up apple harvest. Crop was smaller than earlier estimates. Calves were being weaned in preparation for market. Fall pasture conditions were mostly good.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: The rain off and on during the week helped the pasture, winter wheat, and bluegrass seed crops. Producers were pretty much finished with seeding winter wheat and a number of growers completed all their fall work. Fertilizing of bluegrass seed was in full swing with a number of growers complaining about the high price of fertilizer and diesel this fall. The area has not had a severe killing frost, but rumor has it that Mt. Spokane was white this weekend.

Walla Walla: Most fall crops were planted and emerged. There was rain on Friday, with .31 inches received in the central portion of Walla Walla County. Rain showers continued off and on throughout the weekend.

Whitman: Continued rains were helping the low soil moisture conditions. Warmer than normal October temperatures were giving way to more seasonal conditions. Producers were finishing up fall tillage. Winter wheat emergence was very good with warmer conditions during October. Most seeding operations were completed.

Whitman (2nd Report): The wet fall has been extremely helpful to start the winter wheat year off in a positive way. The soil water profile was getting better with each rain.

Weekly Weather Statistics

October 31, 2005

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	32	65	49	2	8	1	0	0	0.56	-0.38	4	5.70	0.50	110	27
Everett	39	63	52	4	15	8	0	0	0.39	-0.46	4	3.26	-1.84	64	26
Hoquiam	38	63	51	-1	12	-7	0	0	1.61	-0.16	5	7.06	-2.11	77	30
Kelso	35	66	53	4	26	12	0	0	0.43	-0.66	3	4.15	-1.85	69	23
Olympia	33	64	50	4	14	13	0	0	0.81	-0.49	5	5.34	-1.02	84	29
Sea-Tac	37	63	52	2	15	3	0	0	0.30	-0.65	3	2.59	-2.37	52	24
Shelton	31	61	48	-2	4	-5	0	0	1.25	-0.40	5	6.84	-1.05	87	27
Tacoma	32	66	51	3	14	7	0	0	0.52	-0.45	3	3.32	-1.73	66	20
Vancouver	38	67	54	6	35	26	2	2	0.58	-0.33	4	3.70	-1.32	74	24
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	25	69	48	6	8	8	0	0	0.00	-0.16	0	0.52	-0.50	51	7
Stampede Pass	32	57	42	6	2	2	0	0	0.70	-1.24	4	10.54	0.93	110	27
Wenatchee	33	65	48	3	8	4	0	0	0.01	-0.13	1	0.35	-0.47	43	7
Yakima AP	24	67	46	1	5	1	0	0	0.06	-0.08	1	0.48	-0.37	56	8
NORTHEAST															
Colville	30	64	45	4	4	4	0	0	0.24	-0.14	2	1.44	-0.88	62	12
Deer Park	25	64	42	-2	0	0	0	0	0.46	0.11	5	1.96	0.04	102	17
Spokane AP	33	66	45	3	6	6	0	0	0.30	-0.01	3	1.61	-0.06	96	13
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	29	66	47	1	8	1	0	0	0.09	-0.05	1	1.12	0.34	144	9
Moses Lake	28	68	47	0	5	-2	0	0	0.19	0.05	2	1.23	0.45	158	9
Quincy	29	64	47	2	7	6	0	0	0.07	-0.08	1	0.91	0.03	103	8
Ritzville	29	67	48	5	9	9	0	0	0.15	-0.09	3	1.44	0.12	109	11
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	31	66	49	-2	12	-6	0	0	0.09	-0.05	1	0.30	-0.43	41	4
Pasco	30	68	50	2	12	-2	0	0	0.06	-0.10	1	1.16	0.30	135	8
Pullman	35	70	47	3	7	4	0	0	0.03	-0.39	2	0.70	-1.65	30	10
Whitman Miss.	31	67	47	-1	0	-7	0	0	0.18	-0.11	4	1.25	-0.41	75	16
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	32	66	46	1	10	8	0	0	0.09	-0.39	3	1.23	-1.49	45	11
Lewiston ID	37	68	51	4	23	13	1	1	0.57	0.36	2	1.33	-0.32	81	10

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2004

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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